

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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P 170641Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2164

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS

FOR HABIB FROM SULLIVAN

REF: STATE 35251

1. I MET WITH SECRETARY ROMULO MORNING FEBRUARY 17 TO REQUEST HIS AGREEMENT TO CHANGE DATE FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM APRIL 12 TO APRIL 19. I INFORMED HIM THAT SECRETARY PROPOSED SESSION OPEN AT 11:00 A.M. TO BE FOLLOWED BY WORKING LUNCH.

2. RUMULO READILY AGREED TO CHANGE IN DATE, POINTING OUT THAT HIS ONLY PROBLEM WAS TO BE BACK HERE IN MANILA IN LATE APRIL IN ORDER MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD MEETING IN NAIROBI SCHEDULED FOR EARLY MAY.

3. ONCE AGREEMENT ON NEW DATE HAD BEEN REACHED, I INFORMED ROMULO OF OUR INTENTION TO HAVE MEDIA COVERAGE OF FORMAL OPENING OF MEETING. RUMULO SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO HAVE TELEVISION COVERAGE SHOW TO PHILIPPINES PEOPLE "AND TO THIRD WORLD" THAT U.S. AND PHILIPPINES WERE MEETING IN SPIRIT OF CONGENIAL COOPERATION AS ALLIES RATHER THANHSN SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION. HE POINTED OSN THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS RECENTLY STRESSED ON TWO OCCASIONS THAT HE EXPECTS NO RPT NO INTRACTABLE DIFFICULTIES IN THESE
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NEGOTIATIONS.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS SOME POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT IN THIS POSTPONEMENT SINCE MARCOS, AT VERY MOMENT I WAS ENTERING DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS MAKING SPEECH AT GRADUATION OF PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY IN WHICH HE SAID THAT TALKS WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 12. I THINK IT IS BEST, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO LET FILIPINOS EXPLAIN THE WEEK'S DELAY RATHER THAN ANNOUNCING IT FROM U.S. SOURCE. SULLIVAN

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